



Week 4 Assignment #1 – Qualitative Analysis/Data Reduction

Overview

Qualitative analysis is a process of reduction to discover the essence of meaning in the data.

Directions

You will type your responses on a separate Word document that you create. To submit your assignment, you will click on the open button, attach your work, and submit.

Use the rubric on the final page of this document to guide your work.

For this assignment, you will need qualitative data to analyze. You may use interviews you may have collected in previous classes, or you may use field notes from observing an activity in your professional assignment. You may also use student responses to open ended questions, such as a short essay on a topic. You should have about 1½ pages of qualitative data from at least three respondents. Use your data to answer the following prompts:

1. Describe the data and how it was collected.
2. Read the qualitative data more than once to begin to “hear” what is being communicated. Highlight fragments that seem to have meaning. Copy and paste sections from three respondents (about 150-200 words each) or field notes from an observation of three participants (at least 250 words) responding to a common prompt. Highlight words, phrases or fragments from each respondent that seem to have meaning. Each paragraph may contribute at least one meaning or idea.
3. Reduce the data by grouping fragments with similar meaning. Identify each group with a descriptive label. List group labels.
4. Reflect on the group labels to reduce the data even more. Do the labels suggest one or more themes contained in the qualitative data? State at least one and not more than three themes as a short sentence or title.

Rubric

Use the following Rubric to guide your work on Week 4 Assignment #1.

Tasks ↓	Accomplished 10-8 points	Proficient 7-6 points	Needs Improvement 5-0 points
Data Collection	Description is sufficient to understand how data was collected from whom without breaching confidentiality.	Description of data collection and source is generally addressed, but there is not enough information to replicate data collection.	Description of data collection and sources is unclear and cannot be replicated.
Words and fragments	One or more ideas per paragraph are identified as having meaning.	Meaning units are lengthy or there are noticeably fewer meaning units than paragraphs identified.	Data not provided, or not highlighted.
Group Labels	Each group label represents at least two or three highlighted sections, and may reasonably be linked to the data.	Most but not all the group labels may be understood from the data	Group labels do not make sense.
Themes	Themes sufficiently describe ideas contained in the group labels.	Themes generally describe much of the meaning contained in the group labels.	Themes do not describe meanings contained in the group labels.